

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is being filed in response to an Office Action dated April 20, 2005. Claims 29-57 are pending in this application. Claims 29-41 and 46-57 stand rejected and claims 42-45 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 29 is independent. By this Amendment, claims 29 and 42 have been amended and claims 82-108 have been added, of which claim 82 is independent. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 42. Claim 42 has been amended to depend from new independent claim 82. New claim 82 comprises original allowable claim 43 rewritten in independent form, and claims 83-108 are original claims 30-41 and 44-57 rewritten to depend from new independent claim 82.

Also by this Amendment, as discussed with the Examiner, FIG. 9 has been added, which shows an embodiment of the invention comprising a second bore radially expanded by a second retaining member, as described in paragraph [0029] of the specification as originally filed, and accordingly a new paragraph [0059] has been added in the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully maintains that the amendments have been made without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, claims 29-59 and 82-108 remain pending in this application, and Applicant respectfully maintains that this application is in condition for allowance.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant note with appreciation the allowability of claims 42-45 if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 29 to include

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawing includes a new figure, FIG. 9, which shows an embodiment of the invention comprising a second retaining device.

Attachment: New Sheet

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the limitations of claim 42, and claim 43 has been rewritten in independent form as newly added claim 82. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 29-59 and 82-108 are in condition for allowance.

**Telephonic Interview on August 17, 2005**

Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the August 17, 2005 telephonic interview. During the interview, the Examiner stated that claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 because the second retaining device was not shown in the figures and agreed to withdraw the rejection if either the figures were amended or a new figure was added to show the second retaining device. By this Amendment, Applicant has submitted a new figure, FIG. 9, which illustrates an embodiment of the invention having a second retaining device. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)**

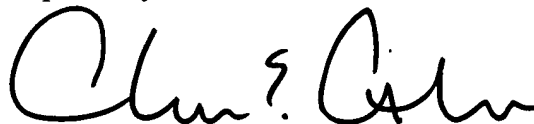
In the Office Action, claims 29-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,811,418 to Jazowski et al. (Jazowski), claims 34-35 were rejected as being unpatentable over Jazowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,980,374 to Fallot, and claims 46-48 were rejected as being unpatentable over Jazowski. As discussed above, claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 42, which was previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 29-57 as amended herein, and newly added claims 82-108 are patentable over Jazowski and are in condition for allowance.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding rejections have been addressed and are now either overcome or moot. Applicant further submits that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of those rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully maintains that no excess claims fee is due, but if any fee is required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4709. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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